



**Underhill Conservation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
October 12, 2020  
Remote Meeting**

**Present:** Karen McKnight, Steve Webster, Nancy McRae, Peter Hiskes, Amy Golodetz, Betsy Chapek, Laurie Graham

**Absent:** Daphne Tanis, Pat Lamphere

**Guests:** David Demarest, Karin Hess

**6:32 p.m. Welcome** Karen McKnight welcomes all and leads the meeting.

**6:31 p.m. Public Comment** - None

**6:32 p.m. Approval of Minutes: 9/14/20**

Nancy Moves to approve the minutes from 9/14/20 Regular Meeting of the Underhill Conservation Commission. Laurie Graham seconds. Discussion includes: David Demarest believes that the 9/14/20 minutes should include the two links he provided. David Demarest also suggests changing the wording about grant coverage from “partial cost” to 80%. The links David Demarest suggests are from the Mountain Gazette 2014 Archive and Vermont Agency of Natural Resources Recreational Trails Program Grants he had previously presented in 2009. Karen McKnight discusses that the link is not really about the UCC using lawyers, David Demarest replies that Karen McKnight said that the UCC had not used lawyers and the link shows that the UCC had used lawyers to rescind his property access.

Nancy McRae moves to include “80%” in the minutes and include the link to the grant that gives 80%. Amy seconds. Discussion includes Karen McKnight clarifies if it is both links; Nancy McRae confirms just the one link about the grant. Laurie Graham asks about the purpose of including the links from the Public Comment, asks about if it weren’t a virtual meeting (with sidebar chat) would we still include links, and replies that she will use the recorded meeting to revisit the Public Comment section to review for accuracy.

Laurie Graham moves to table the minutes of 9/14/20. Betsy Chapek seconds. The minutes are tabled by a vote of 7-0.

**6:39 p.m. Plant Sale Thank-you Notes**

Thank-you notes were sent; Karen McKnight has one to deliver. Karin Hess asks how much the plant made, Karen McKnight replies that the sale and auction made \$551 total - a success.

**6:45 Crane Brook Conservation District**

Trail Signage - Amy Golodetz was not sure who was going to get the pricing of the posts to replace the sign on New Road that was taken down during roadside clearing. Need 2 4x4 posts, 8 feet in length - 2 feet below ground, 6 above. David Demarest suggests Cedar over Pressure Treated to limit environmental impact. Peter mentions Pressure Treated would be longer lasting. Steve Webster agrees with avoiding pressure treated. **Karen McKnight will research the two types and places sold, and will purchase the 2 posts for the sign.**

### **Invasive Species monitoring: Crane Brook & Gravel Pit**

Steve Webster introduces the monitoring as a great success with a volunteer crew every 3 weeks this summer. Steve Webster notes that the knotweed seems to be getting less robust, but will need to see what happens next year.

Steve Webster discusses the items purchased include Parsnip Predator and the weed wrench; currently in Steve Webster's truck.

The patch of knotweed at the Gravel Pit was cut and tarped by the solar power company that maintains the land around the array. Confirmation received that pesticides were not used. **Steve Webster has the contact information for the person in charge of the control, and proposed that the UCC take over the site. Karen McKnight suggests Steve Webster clarify with them and suggests we take over and use mesh in the spring.**

David Demarest asks if the UCC budget item for hiring a contractor for invasive species would include pesticides or not? Karen McKnight replies that the budget was submitted but we did not get a contractor.

Betsy Chapek asks about the original patch of knotweed covered in black plastic on the edge of the meadow at CBCD, and asks for the status. Steve Webster replies that it is robust and has grown back, and the black plastic had lots of holes punched through it. Betsy Chapek asks if there is any thought of going back at it? Karen McKnight agrees but notes that hands are full in other places. Betsy Chapek suggests going back as it was the original piece. Karen McKnight discusses it has not seemed to move further into the meadow, but has seemed to move down the hill. Amy Golodetz notes competition in the meadow, Peter suggests it is drier on the other side of the meadow, Karen McKnight replies about the sand/gravel beneath the meadow.

Nancy McRae asks if the fields or trails have been mowed. Karen McKnight visited the site to look for beaver- confirms activity. Betsy Chapek replies that the meadow has been mowed and there were 2 other cars parked using the CBCD when Betsy Chapek visited two days ago.

There has been no new conversation with the Recreation Committee on the Kiosk. **Karen McKnight will speak with Anton Kelsey about the plans for the kiosk.** Karen McKnight asks if the Recreation Committee Isn't interested in taking it on, should the UCC try to get it up there this fall? Other members show agreement. Betsy Chapek and Amy Golodetz have been working on the sign for the kiosk.

Steve Webster mentioned the storage shed was brought to the selectboard during public comment last month. **Steve Webster will email the Selectboard a follow-up on the storage shed.**

**7:06 p.m. New Business:**

Betsy Chapek asks about educational programs for this winter; wonders if the UCC should concentrate on the kiosk as it will be educational. Karen McKnight agrees, notes the state has been doing a lot of online outreach opportunities (wildlife, etc.) **Karen McKnight considers posting events from Ethan Tapper to FPF.** Peter suggests some outdoor events, and someone who might come as a public speaker. **The UCC will think about and research any outdoor guest speakers / walks and suggest them at the next meeting.**

Amy Golodetz asks for information about Tomasi Meadow and if the UCC will have work to do related to taking care of it; Karen McKnight replies that no one has mentioned UCC taking care of it. **Amy Golodetz mentions a prior meeting of the Selectboard where the Interim Management Plan was discussed and will revisit that item. Betsy Chapek will reach out to Sherri Morin about mowing Tomasi Meadow included with other areas for mowing to prepare for next year.**

**7:18 p.m. Adjourn** Steve Webster moves to adjourn the meeting, Amy Golodetz seconds. The meeting is adjourned by a vote of 7-0.

Minutes submitted by Laurie Graham.